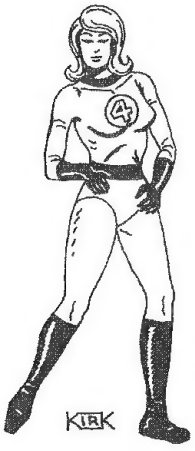
THE HEROINE ADDICT

No. 5
JUNE, 1975

THE HEROINE ADDICT #5, *June, 1975*
Published bimonthly by The Adventure Heroines Publishing Association, *a division of THE COMICS HEROINES FAN CLUB, Box 10956, Baltimore, Md. 21234.*
Contents copyright (c) 1975 by Albert Tanner unless otherwise indicated. Artwork includes original illustrations of characters copyrighted by National Periodical Publications and Marvel Comics Group. Opinions or attitudes expressed by staff members or other contributors do not necessarily represent views or policies of the publishing organization. All material submitted for potential publication becomes the property of the publisher unless otherwise arranged by mutual agreement.

Except where otherwise stated, all correspondence should be mailed to:

Albert Tanner
Box 10956
Baltimore, Md. 21234



MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Club members receive copies of all AHPA publications, including bimonthly fanzine issues and every issue of our fully-illustrated adventure-heroine fiction magazine, THE ADVENTURESS, by first class mail.

CHFC publishing and mailing costs are met by the payment of dues by all subscribing members, supplemented by minimal charges to advertisers and by the sale of publications to nonmembers when possible. Through his club-dues account, every member is contributing $1.00 toward the publishing cost of this THA issue, which he or she receives free of additional charge.

All comics-heroine fans can become subscribing members by making an initial dues payment of $3.00. Checks must be made *payable to A.S. Turner.*

CONTRIBUTIONS

We are glad to receive material from new contributors for potential publication. We suggest that prospective new authors write "letters to the editor" as an introduction to their styles and ideas, and we recommend that new artists begin by submitting illos of quarter-page size or less for our THA general illustration file.

We do not guarantee to publish any unsolicited material of course, and it can not be returned unless accompanied by sufficient return postage and packaging.

Letters to the editor are always very welcome and those of general interest will be published as space allows.

Here she is: CHEFAC!

CLUB NEWS on page 7

PREEE--SENTING...

THE ADVENTURE HEROINES PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION

Publishing Editor: *Albert Tanner*

Department Editors: *Dwayne Best, Ted Delorme, Scott Gibson, Kirk Hastings, Robert Rodi, Carol Strickland, Mercy Van Vlack*

Other Staff Writers: *Tom O'Reilly, Jeff Thompson*

Other Staff Artists: *Alex Bialy, Tom Luth, Tom O'Reilly, Chris Padovano, Scott Taylor*

Business Manager: A.S. *Turner*
Assistant Editor: *Scott Gibson*
Publicity: *Mercy Van Vlack*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

ILLUSTRATIONS IN THIS ISSUE:

Alex Bialy: pages 25↑, 38, 39↓
Ted Delorme: pages 10*, 12, 13, 26, 27
Kirk Hastings: cover; pages 2←, 4, 6, 34, 37→
Phil Laskowski: page 2↑
Tom O'Reilly: pages 9, 14, 15, 16, 20-21, 24↑
Robert Rodi: pages 18, 19, 32, 33
Carol Strickland: pages 2↓, 35↓, 36, 37←
Scott Taylor: page 35↑
Frank Travellin: pages 10*, 39↑
Mercy Van Vlack: pages 3, 7, 8, 22, 25↓, 28, 29, 30

**in collaboration*

IMPORTANT NOTICE

If "PAYMENT NOW DUE" has been stamped on the front of your THA envelope, the current balance in your CHFC club-dues account is not enough to meet the cost of our next scheduled AHPA publications, which may include special material. In order not to miss anything, send a new payment of at least $3.00 now, making your check payable to A.S. Turner.

We believe you would find it preferable to send more than the minimum $3 so that you will have to pay dues less ferquently and can receive all new material without delay. We keep an accurate record of your balance and will notify you when your next payment is required.

ATTENTION NEWCOMERS

Back issues of THA are available as shown:

THA #1: 20 pages, 75¢
THA #2 & #3: 36 pages each, $1.00
THA #4: 40 pages, $1.00

ADVERTISING RATES

Full page (Make your original copy 6 3/8 x 10 inches.).....$6.00
Half-page, horizontal (Make your original copy 6 3/8 x 5 inches.)....$3.25
Half-page, vertical (Make your original copy 3 3/16 x 10 inches.)....$3.25
Quarter-page, horizontal (Original copy 6 3/8 x 2 1/2 inches.).....$1.75
Quarter-page, vertical (Your original copy 3 3/16 x 5 inches.).....$1.75
Eighth-page (Make your original copy 3 3/16 x 2 1/2 inches.).....$1.00

→ Make checks payable to A.S. Turner. Advance payment is required.
→ All ads must be submitted in the sizes specified above. In each case, width is given first, heighth second.
→ AHPA staff members may advertise at reduced courtesy rates.

THE "AVENGERS" WOMEN

PART II

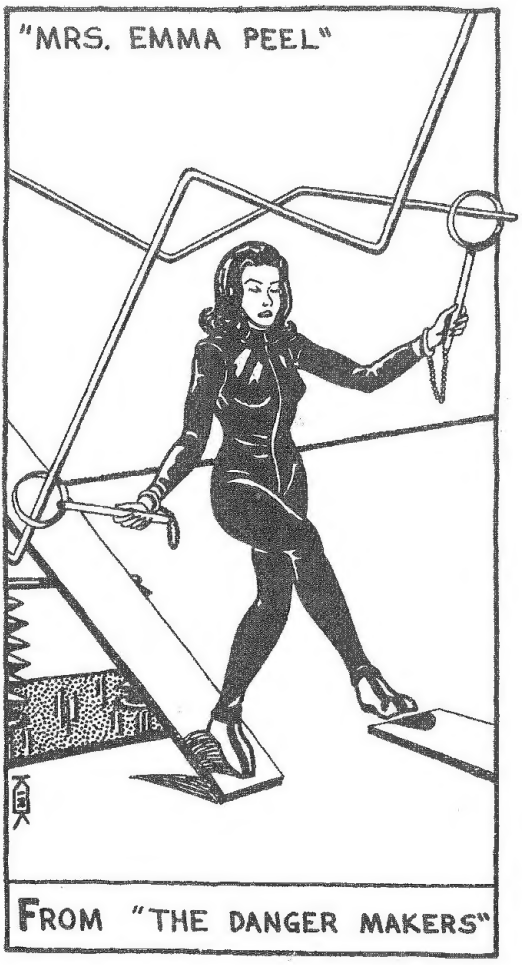
BY KIRK HASTINGS

In the first installment of this article I related the success of THE AVENGERS on British television after a female co-star was added, in the person of Mrs. Cathy Gale (played by Honor Blackman). I also covered her subsequent replacement by a woman destined to become even more popular --- Mrs. Emma Peel, played by Shakespearean actress Diana Rigg.

They say history repeats itself. THE AVENGERS is a good case in point. The original female star of the series, Honor Blackman, left the show in 1964 to be replaced by Diana Rigg. Now it was Diana's turn.

In early 1968 Miss Rigg informed the producers she too was ready to call it quits, in favor of better movie roles. Once again the same problem reared its ugly head --- a replacement had to be found for the tremendously popular female co-star of the show. The producers had been very lucky the first time --- could they do it again?

In the spring of 1968 THE AVENGERS aired an episode (written by Brian Clemens) entitled "The Forget-Me-Knot". In this adventure we learned that a traitor was loose in the Ministry, and to complicate matters other agents (including Steed and Mrs. Peel) were inexplicably losing their memories. During the course of these events Mrs. Peel is captured, and Steed has a run-in with a tall, beautiful young agent by the name of Tara King. Eventually Steed and Tara locate the traitor and Mrs. Peel, and all's well that ends well. Except for one detail --- at the very end of the episode it is revealed that Mrs. Peel has been notified that her long-lost husband, Peter Peel, has been found alive in the jungles of the Amazon, where he had been lost years before. Naturally Mrs.



Peel wanted to leave the Ministry to be with her husband again. So, after a short but meaningful goodbye to the man with whom she shared so many dangers with, Mrs. Peel left Steed to join her husband, who, ironically, with umbrella and bowler hat, looked very much like Steed himself! As Mrs. Peel roared off into the sunset Tara King entered Steed's apartment and informed him that she was chosen as Emma's replacement. The episode closed with Steed intently studying Tara as she boiled a pot of tea for him.

Tara King, unlike the two women before her, did not have an extensive background --- it seems she must have led a fairly uninteresting life before joining the Ministry of Defence. She was neither married nor a widow like both her predecessors, nor was she particularly talented in mechanics or the use of weapons. And her clothing tended toward pretty blouses and skirts, rather than the leather jumpsuits of Mrs. Gale and Mrs. Peel. However, one shouldn't get the idea that Tara was any less a "liberated" woman, or any less able to take care of herself than Steed's former partners. Tall (5 foot 9 inches) and athletic, Tara was fully trained in judo and other self-defense techniques. And she did not hesitate to use her talents whenever necessary!

An interesting sidelight: For seven TV seasons Steed and his lady cohorts shared what could unequivocally be called a "platonic" relationship. But Tara King was the first lady "Avenger" who began to break that mold. Many times after a trying experience Steed and Tara were shown embracing each other for comfort, and even once or twice (if memory serves me correctly) Tara planted a kiss or two on Steed's cheek as a reward for saving her. Now this may not exactly sound like "Love Story," but compared to Steed's relationships with his first two partners, that was quite daring! Perhaps Steed felt it easier to display <u>some</u> emotion with Tara because she was the first <u>unmarried</u> woman in his life .....

Miss Tara King was portrayed by Miss Linda Thorson, and THE AVENGERS was her first acting job after graduating from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts. She was only 20 years old at the time, born in Toronto, Canada. Until joining THE AVENGERS Miss Thorson had a difficult time passing auditions because of her height. Finally Bob Lennard, the head of casting for the Associated British Corporation (no relation to the ABC Network) suggested Linda try for the part then open in THE AVENGERS. The rest is history. Linda went on to do more than 30 episodes of the popular series before the show, after nine years, finally succumbed. Besides being a club ice-skating champion in Toronto, Linda is a talented swimmer, diver, waterskier, rider, and even a singer. Add to all <u>these</u> talents that of being a dancer, and you have a well-rounded young lady!

Of the many fantastic adventures shared by Steed and Tara, five are briefly capsulized below:

"THE CURIOUS CASE OF THE COUNTLESS CLUES." Tara encounters killers who leave false clues behind them that point to another party, enabling them to then blackmail that person for huge sums of money. Soon Tara falls into their trap --- she is to be killed so that Steed can be falsely "incriminated" for her death! (Written by Philip Levene.)

"BIZARRE." Men who are killed suddenly by mysterious

"accidents" are later found to be missing from their graves! Tara investigates when the mystery hits her close to home --- Steed has been killed in an auto accident, and his body has also disappeared! (Written by Brian Clemens.)

"FOG." In the midst of fog-shrouded London Steed and Tara investigate a strange club dedicated to "The Gaslight Ghoul," an unidentified murderer of 1888. Why? The Gaslight Ghoul, apparently, is killing the members of an international disarmament committee! (Written by Jeremy Burnham.)

"WISH YOU WERE HERE." Tara becomes trapped in a curious hotel where, every time a guest tries to leave, he suffers a mysterious accident preventing him from checking out. Soon murder enters the picture. What is the secret of the strange hotel? (Written by Tony Williamson.)

"PANDORA." A haunting tale of Tara being drugged into believing she is in the early 1900s and the young fiancee of an old man. Purpose: to get the old man to reveal the hiding place of a fabulous wealth. (Written by Brian Clemens.)

It has now been about six years since THE AVENGERS left the network. But though no longer in production the series continues to live on through syndicated reruns in many cities of the U.S., and other countries as well. Unfortunately, U.S. AVENGERS fans have never had the privilege of seeing the earlier "Cathy Gale" episodes; many hope that someday they will be shown in this country.

If you are a fan of the "adventure heroine" genre and have not yet experienced THE AVENGERS, I heartily urge you to do so. No doubt when "Christy Love" and "Sgt. 'Pepper' Anderson" have long since faded from the scene Mrs. Emma Peel and Tara King will still be thrilling and entrancing audiences just as they have for the past 11 years.

*

COMMENTS OR CRITICISMS? I'd be glad to hear from you. Send your feedback to:

Kirk Hastings
216 West Burk Avenue
Wildwood
New Jersey 08260

Thanks!

CLUB NEWS!

And Other Pertinent Points → by Al Tanner, editor

Wow! The results of our first auctioning of original artwork have been just great! Fans and collectors submitted generous bids for every single one of the 31 illustrations which were included in our first auction list, thus giving further indication of the *consistent quality* of our published AHPA artwork. All the high-bidders were notified immediately after the May 9 deadline date for the receipt of bids, and all quickly returned their payments to us. Incidentally, those 31 original illos were purchased for a total of $68.50.

With this issue we are enclosing a mimeographed bidding form listing the illos published in THA #3 and #4. (Some of you have said you "can't wait!" Okay, here it is.) As you know, there was a lot of fine art in both of those issues, and the original drawings are very "collectable." Fire away with your bids, following the instructions on the form. Don't forget the deadline date stated on the form as one disappointed would-be buyer did the last time. Remember, the auction proceeds are divided equally between our general publishing fund and the individual artists involved, and your bidding is a very significant way of supporting our effort to produce what you want in the way of published material.

THE NOSTALGIA JOURNAL'S recent endorsement of THA #3 - in their feature *editorial*, not just in a routine review - was a tribute to the consistently fine work of our AHPA staff, the department editors in particular. Some fanzine reviewers may find fault, as at least one already has, with some aspects of our publications; but it's obvious that our efforts are earning considerable respect. We are making no effort to "turn pro," of course. THA remains definitely a *fan*zine: we hope it will continue to be regarded as a distinctly worthwhile one!

A series of unpredictable and unfortunate happenings - some of them very freakish in fact, and all of them beyond anyone's control - has played havoc with our production schedule for THE ADVENTURESS #1. As a result, I'm not going to venture another prediction as to a publishing date. I'm not copping out either, however; TA #1 will indeed *be published* before too long! In the meantime, I'm happy to know how many of you are looking forward with anticipation to the AHPA's specialized fiction product.

Speaking of extra products, you will also be receiving some other additional things ("goodies" as some of your letters refer to them) as part of your CHFC dues-subscription. We're sticking to our plans to produce the variety of offerings which will make the CHFC one of the nation's most complete publishing fan clubs. Our immediate plans include poster-illustrations and a CHFC letterzine edited by Scott Gibson.

Incidentally, Scott has just accepted an appointment as acting assistant editor. In this role he will represent me in the handling of some of the "official" correspondence with which I have become overburdened as the scope of the CHFC has increased. No one could be better qualified than Scott to assist me in this way, and I will be proud to have him doing so.

If you don't have a copy of our new introductory CHFC folder, you are eligible to receive one by just sending me a request and enclosing a #10 (legal size) self-addressed stamped envelope. On one side is a great Tom O'Reilly illo of a dozen popular comics heroines (14 by 9 inches); on the

otherside is a complete summary of information about our club and its publications, along with an illo by Scott Taylor. By the way, Tom's collage illo makes a nice poster, and this was one of the purposes for which the folder was designed.

If you remember our "artistic fumble" in THA #4 (see page 25 of that issue), you'll be interested in knowing that several of our staff artists subsequently volunteered to submit illos of "the right" Nightshade, the one Scott had written about. (And of course this Nightshade also obliged Scott by promptly making an appearance in CHARLTON BULLSEYE.) Mercy immediately sent me two *beautiful* illos. (Look left....Okay, I'll *promise* to let you see her other one in a future issue.) Editing a fanzine can be a pleasure - when it has a staff of artists like *ours*!

When ABC-TV gets around to airing its pilot movie for the new *Wonder Woman* series which that network is "considering" - seriously, we hope - for next year, we urge *every one* of you CHFC members to *write* to ABC in total *support* of the proposed series. Even if the pilot movie isn't exactly handled the way you'd prefer it to be (and even if you don't actually get a chance to see it, for that matter), tell ABC emphatically that you *do want* to see the series produced! It's going to be important to all adventure heroines fans that such a series gains a foothold on television, and it may not if the network doesn't get much mail in favor of the concept.

As a matter of fact, let's handle our CHFC "WW TV campaign" this way. Send us a (carbon?) copy of your letter to ABC, and we'll publish a list of all of you who have joined the campaign, and perhaps excerpts from some of your letters. And remember, we're calling on not only Wonder Woman fans to participate, but *all* fans of the comics-type adventure heroines in general! The address to write to is: American Broadcasting Company, 1330 Avenue Of The Americas, New York, N.Y. 10019....Put it to 'em!

Speaking of letters, I regret the comparative bevity of the lettercol in this issue. I'd love to publish more of the interesting letters you've sent, but even forty pages doesn't give me enough free space. I think you'll all agree that our separate *letterzine* is going to serve a very necessary purpose indeed! We're all interested in the views and ideas of comics heroines fans.

As you may have noticed on page 3, Alex Bialy is a newly-appointed AHPA staff artist. The Bialy illos which you'll see in this issue have convinced me that this newcomer is qualified for a spot on our regular staff. I've also heard recently from several other potential candidates for staff roles as regular AHPA artists and/or writers. It's great to see that our CHFC endeavor continues to elicit the interest of so many talented people everywhere.

SERIAL AND MOVIE PHOTOS
Heroines & Damsels in Distress
Brenda Starr, Reporter
Lois Lane, Others!
Send 50¢ for sample photo and list of items to:
BBY
P.O. Box 712
Seabrook, Tx. 77586

I WANT COMICS!

I'm looking for Golden Age DC's, Fiction House & Quality titles, all in the super-hero field. I'll pay GOOD PRICES for copies in good or better condition! Write:

Scott Gibson
2711 South Pinehurst, Evergreen, CO 80439

A reader has asked whether THA can justifiably denote itself as being "the official voice of America's comics-heroines fans." Of *course* it can - and *should*! After all, it isn't a question of the size of our membership. The point is, we are the nation's only publishing organization devoted *exclusively* to the comics heroines and their fans. (Imitators may crop up sooner or later, but they will be just that: imitators.) So by definition - not to mention the accolades of our heroine-rooting members - we *are* the official voice of the nation's comics-heroines fans. This would be true even if our membership weren't growing virtually every day, which in fact it is!

New members, some of whom blanketly state that they "want to have everything we publish," are ordering copies of back issues of THA at a rate which tends to prove that we are indeed filling a void where the interest of comics fans is concerned. Dealers in comics-fan material, realizing that we have something of unique interest to offer, are inquiring about quantity purchases of our published material for resale at stores or through the mail. To make a long story short, if *you* want copies of back issues, I'd suggest that you order them now while our supply lasts.

I'll bet you've already noticed (or should I say ogled) the illo at the right. (Oh *come* on, ladies: the CHFC is *not* "just a sexist organization", and you know it!) This depiction of an extra-glamorous Batgirl should remind you, if you *need* any reminder, to enter our CHFC costume contest (see page 17). It's main purpose, however, is to introduce you to the idea that some of our AHPA artists will be working with me to present some *variations* in THA of the costumes worn by comics heroines. I'll be quite surprised if you don't enjoy our innovations, which won't be overly frequent of course, but let us know what you think.

That reminds me, I should point out that our AHPA staff *artists* will be *ineligible* to enter the CHFC costume contest.

As usual, I'm running out of editorial space long before I run out of club news and comments I'd like to pass on to you. But I do want to urge you again to contact our THA advertisers if you have any potential interest in what they have to offer, and to help all of us by telling them you saw their ads here!

Quick comments: The CHFC may soon have a branch in England. Why, despite our constantly published statements, do some people *not* "make checks payable to A.S. Turner"? ...Don't forget to bid!

THE HEROINE REVUE

ROBERT KANIGHER--MAKER and BREAKER of HEROINES

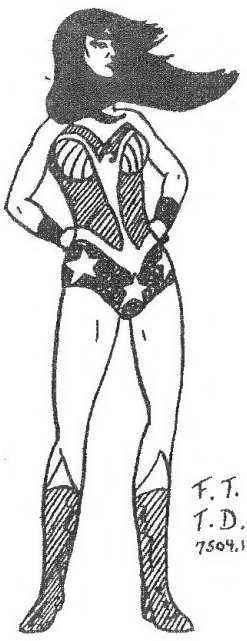
by Scott Gibson

One of the 'big' names in comics is Robert Kanigher. He was and is a most influential figure in the business from the Golden Age of Comics on. Mr. K. has at one time or another scripted most of the characters at DC, and he has been responsible for the creation of some of comicdom's best and most famous characters. Among his brain-children (brain-daughters, to be more specific) are such stalwarts as Black Canary, Star Sapphire (the original one), and the Thorn. It would appear that Kanigher, like hope, springs eternal, for today he is as active as ever.

In fact, the Kanigher name is virtually synonymous with the word 'heroine.' He's not only chronicled the adventures of many of DC's lovely ladies, but has edited their magazines, as well. Which brings us to the paradoxical title and subject of this article: Maker and Breaker of Heroines.

Kanigher is somewhat of a genius; his writing is usually the best—his editing is invariably the worst. Heroines have suffered more indignities under this man than I should care to name. R.K.'s interpretation of a heroine (at least, as evidenced by the books he edited during the Sixties), is all that is sexist, chauvinistic and distorted. The woman to whom he caused the most damage (simply because she was under his editorial guidance the longest) is Wonder Woman. The Amazing Amazon, circa 1960-68 was a one-dimensional drip; a powerhouse of fury who would deal swift, uncompromising justice to all evil-doers. But--let her get within shouting distance of her beau Steve Trevor, and she'd become slobbering, spineless putty in his hands.

Kanigher himself cannot be blamed for starting this nauseating tradition--it was in evidence long before he assumed editorship of the title. He can be faulted only for allowing it to continue. And building on it, by having Steve Trevor pulling all sorts of ridiculous stunts which Wonder Woman seemed not to mind at all. She was forever forgiving him when he dumped her in her Diana Prince guise, preferring to be seen with Wonder Woman. Several times he linked Diana Prince with the Amazing Amazon, trying to prove that they were one and the same, but with typical super-heroine bravado, Di always managed to foil him. And, whereas, everytime the chips were down and it looked as though Wonder Woman were a traitor, Steve was the first to lose faith and abandon her. But on those occasions when the situation was reversed, Diana stoically stood by, always believing in her boyfriend's innocence. Odd, since Wonder Woman came from a society which was big on honor, trust and decency, that she could go for a superficial clod like Trevor, who loved only the glamour of a heroine, and was afraid to be seen with a "plain-Jane" like Lt. Prince. As long as Steve remained in the WW series, he never did change.



The credit for the creation of Wonder Woman's sisters Wonder Girl and Wonder Tot also goes to Robert Kanigher, although he never used these characters well, and he finally dumped them altogether. (It wasn't until the TEEN TITANS magazine that Wonder Girl ever "blossomed.")

Sadly, Wonder Tot had no such secondary outlet in which to appear. The girls' entry into the WW series was something of a paradox, however. They were not originally introduced as Wonder Woman's sisters, but rather, as Wonder Woman herself, at earlier periods of her life. In fact, one could never be sure, when reading on the cover of a particular issue, "featuring Wonder Girl," if that meant that Diana's sister Donna was appearing, or that Diana herself would be reliving some adventure at an earlier age.

The WW book was notorious for its poorly written stories. Indeed, in the early Sixties, it even won an award as worst book of the year. This is not to say that Kanigher did not attempt to change the style of the series. He did, many times. The first was when he began centering Wonder Woman's adventures on Paradise Island, rather than in the 'real world' of America, and he brought Queen Hippolyta up to a substantially larger role. Some of these book-length adventures which featured the entire WW family, were in fact, quite good ("Captives of the Mirage-Giants," WW #142; "Battle of the Boiling Man," WW #154), although they were hampered by some other inane Kanigher-creations; Mer-Man, Mer-Boy, Bird Man and Bird Boy, all of whom lived only to love Wonder Woman et. al. These suitors did not last long.

Without question, Kanigher's most horrible decision came in 1966, when he attempted to return Wonder Woman to her Golden Age style. Evidently, sales had slumped even worse than usual, and R.K. was attempting to recoup the Amazon's earlier fame. While he kept art team Andru & Esposito on the mag, they began drawing WW in classical H.G. Peter's style. Kanigher also brought back Diana's earliest foes, Cheetah, Dr. Psycho, Mars, and others, although the Amazon confronted them as though they were brand new villains with whom she had never before tangled. The plots were absurd, illogical things, drenched in the now ever-more-maudlin love affair between Wonder Woman and Steve. While the Forties stories had afforded us imagination and depth, now Kanigher was obviously hoping that lots of super-Amazon stunts and bizarre villains could replace plot. Needless to say, they didn't. And the art, which had, in the Golden Age, been above average, was, compared to the mid-Sixties style, sadly lacking in detail and showing total disregard for realistic human anatomy. Apparently, this new 'Golden Age,' as Kanigher was billing it, was not very popular with readers, either, as witnessed by this excerpt from a letter which appeared in WW #160, Feb., 1966:

> "Have you flipped? (Your recent stories are) the real Golden Age. Both in story and in art work. Not a kindergarten-return to a time, the forties, which belong back there and should stay there....puh-leeze-don't try to recreate a period both in story and in art work which belongs in a museum...bury the past with the past. Or the present will bury you..."

These sentiments were echoed in many other, similar letters.

Fortunately, the art reverted to the stylized Andru/Esposito again, almost immediately. However, it took the writing style a bit longer to revert. Kanigher embarked on a series of clumsily constructed stories in which Wonder Woman actually talked with the readers, and read letters from them.

Irv Novick took over the art on WW in 1967, extracting the best from the A&E team, and adding his own excellent style, as well. It was at this time that Wonder Girl and Wonder Tot were dropped from the series, even though many stories still took place on Paradise Island. Steve Trevor still remained, naturally, but he was still the egotistical, shallow drip he had been for over ten years, now. The same story gimmicks were still being employed; the little things which made WW's stories so repititious (things like WW being tied with her golden lasso by the villain, forcing her to obey him, something which occurred at least once in almost every issue).

It was then that Kanigher was replaced as editor by Jack Miller, and Diana Prince embarked upon a non-super-powered career. This "new" Wonder Woman would continue for approximately five years, until Kanigher was reinstated as the book's editor. DC had decided to restore Di's powers and her old uniform once more, and they gave the job of ironing out all the details to R.K.

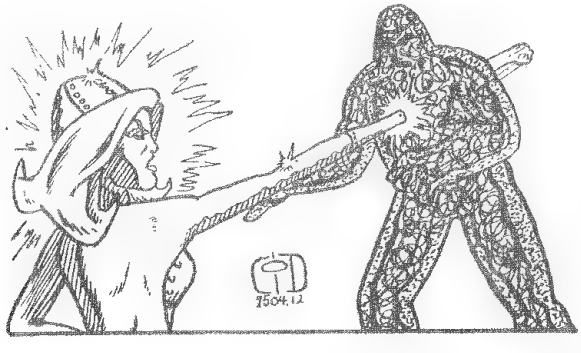
He wasted no time in instigating changes. #204 was his first new issue--in just the first eleven pages, he successfully washed out everything Sekowsky and O'Neil had built up in the last half-decade. Robert Kanigher killed Diana's mentor I-Ching in an ignominously short segment consisting of only 3 panels, after which Ching was never again mentioned. The story-line said that a maniacal sniper killed I-Ching. When Di went after the murderer and caught him, she suffered a blow on the head which destroyed all of her memory, leaving only a hazy determination to return to Paradise Island.

Naturally, under Kanigher's inept editing, Diana was soon in her Wonder Woman togs and again fighting crime. For the most part, Kanigher simply ignored the developments which had been instigated by previous editors, probably eager to return Di to the role of "his" WW. He brought back the 'plain-and-ugly' image to Ms. Prince, now working at the U.N.

Kanigher's most disgusting disregard for his predecessors' work was displayed in WW #208, when he brought back Steve Trevor, dead since #180. Obviously, Mr. K. would edit Wonder Woman his way, complete with all of her old trimmings, or not at all. However, his "new reign" lasted only until WW #211, after a handful of women's liberation--oriented stories. Whether DC was unhappy with Kanigher's work or he simply wanted out himself, the title was switched to Julius Schwartz's more capable hands with the July, 1974 issue.

Robert Kanigher also guided the METAL MEN magazine from it s inception through some thirty issues. His treatment of the robot-heroines Platinum (Tina) and 'Nameless' was similar to the early Wonder Woman. Tina lived only to love her creator, Doc Magnus. Though a powerful robot, just as capable a crimefighter as any of her male teammates, she was forced into uttering such demeaning and humiliating phrases as, "My transistors click only for you, Doc!" As for 'Nameless,' well...the less said about her, the better. While her love for the robot Tin was not quite so unrequited, 'Nameless' herself was an ineffectual little "yes-woman."

By the time the METAL MEN book was passed on to another editor, Platinum's yearning for Doc Magnus had become standard fare, and could hardly be put suddenly aside. However, it was amazing how innovative editor Mike Sekowsky was able to make Tina's one-sided romance. Whereas Kanigher had played it just for comedy, Sekowsky made it an essential ingredient in the story-line.



Bob Kanigher also held the editorial reigns on the SUPERGIRL and LOIS LANE books for a brief period of time. His work on these titles showcased his dislike for continuity—he almost never utilized supporting characters for more than a single story.

For example, in SUPERGIRL #1, Linda Danvers met her new college roommate, a girl named Wanda Five. Presumably, Linda/Supergirl stayed in that same dorm-room for the duration of her college days, yet Wanda never reappeared in any subsequent issues, despite the fact that there was a good deal of mystery surrounding her background. Each story was quite independent of the next—events never protruded or overlapped into other issues. Most of the Supergirl stories were scripted by Cary Bates and Arnold Drake, and were fairly good, although the 'Kanigher-influence' did make itself known. Supergirl and/or Linda would have a new boyfriend and lose him in the same issue. This happened in #'s 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 and 9, resulting in what must have been an exhaustive love-life, even for Supergirl. The Maid of Might inevitably lost her loves because (1), the boy wouldn't tolerate Linda's frequent disappearances to become Supergirl, or (2), the boy was egotistical, shallow and selfish, and dropped Linda in favor of someone else.

Kanigher handled LOIS LANE in much the same manner. Several times, he would start interesting sub-plots which one would expect to see continued in following stories, but never were. A case in point would be LL #133, in which Perry White made Lois editor of the DAILY PLANET while he spent 60 days in Latin America. This story ended with Ms. Lane still anticipating 59 more days of excitement in her new position. Yet, her editor-in-chief role was never mentioned again... Lois was back to being a lowly reporter in the very next issue.

Oddest of all the Kanigher-edited strips was ROSE & THORN, which appeared in the back of LOIS LANE. R.K. created it, and wrote it for a period of about 4 years. It was a revolutionary and creative series, capitalizing on the running theme of the Thorn out to defeat a syndicate called The 100. But, when Kanigher assumed editorial duties on the book, the Thorn's adventures deteriorated into a series of disjointed stories which contained no threads of continuity—she simply wandered aimlessly from one ridiculous situation to the next. Obviously, Robert Kanigher is a writer of tremendous potential—but give him any editorial duties, and he wreaks havoc with the selfsame characters he has created! Why this paradox occurs is something only Kanigher himself might explain—if even he himself knows.

* * *

ADDENDUM: First, my sincere thanks to Ms. Mercy Van Vlack for designing the new logo which heads my column this issue. Quite obviously, she spent a lot of time creating it, and she deserves a round of applause, so CLAP VERY LOUD. Thank you, Ms. VV!

Second, I always appreciate hearing from THA readers, so please write and let me know your opinions of my columns. I want to remind all of you that my new address is: Scott Gibson, 2711 South Pinehurst Drive, Evergreen, Colo., 80439. Again, I encourage anyone to write—I welcome all suggestions, criticisms, pats-on-the-back, etc. etc.

the REEL-LIVE HEROINE

Art and article by T.O'Reilly

Sheena comes to television

The early Fifties brought many odd changes to the U.S. way of life. It was a time of "Rock and Roll"and bomb shelters,of the Communist "witch hunts" of Sen. Joseph McCarthy and lavish movie musicals.

In millions of homes,television was reaching it's "Golden Age",while the "Golden Age"of comics was ending...

It was at this time that the "Comics Code Authority" came into being. A group of comic publishers whose function (supposedly) was to censor their own product for their and the comic buyers "own good".

In the pre-code era,the fan of the comic heroine had a great selection of female crime fighters and super heroines to chose from. Fawcett's Mary Marvel and Nyoka,Quality's wonderful Black Cat,Fox Publication's Phantom Lady and many others.

SHEENA...DOIN' HER THING.

Nowhers,at that pre-code time was the comic heroine developed to a greater degree than at Fiction House. Fiction House Publications had been one of the first to realize the potential of the comic.

Beginning in 1938 in a tabloid-size,black and white format,they quickly adopted many of their already popular pulp magazines to the comics.

The name which comes to mind most often,when Fiction House is mentioned,is Sheena,Queen of the Jungle...

Sheena was one of the first of the Fiction House characters to appear in their comics. Drawn as a beautiful blonde female "Tarzan", Sheena had a unbelievable figure and a leopard-skin costume that appeared to have been put on with a paintbrush. The popularity of Sheena formed the foundation for the "Pin-Up" style of comics that was to become the trademark of Fiction House.

The Sheena stories usually had a certain sameness to them.

Slave traders, diamond thieves, etc. would invade Sheena's domain and it would be up to her to destroy them in 20 or so pages. One of the unusual aspects of Sheena was that she was, in every sense of the word, the star!! While she travelled with a male companion named Bob, (Whom Sheena referred to as "her mate") he was consistently useless when it came to any action and was rescued by Sheena in issue after issue. (I've often wondered why she bothered).

In David Niven's highly entertaining autobiography, "The Moon's a Balloon" (G.P. Putnam's Sons), he relates how he, Dick Powell, and Charles Boyer started Four-Star Productions, making original shows for television syndication.

One of the projects that Four-Star had decided to do was a half-hour show based on Fiction House's Sheena. To portray the fantastic jungle queen, Four-Star picked an equally fantastic Hollywood star....ANITA EKBERG!

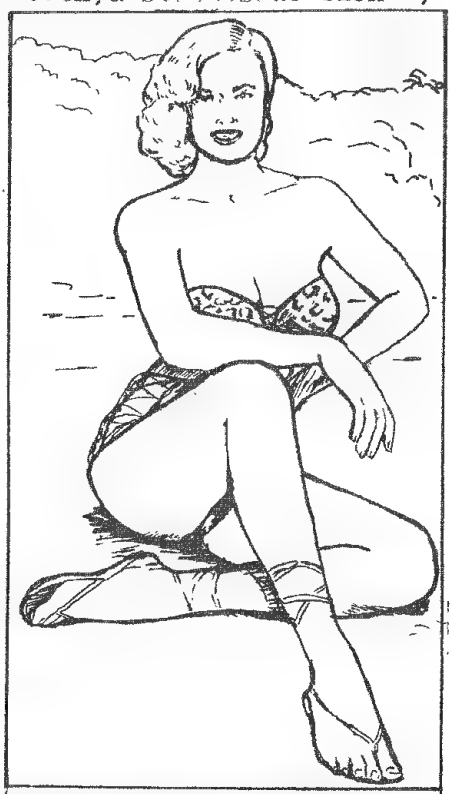
Miss Ekberg was a former Miss Sweden, a statuesque blonde, who rivaled the formidable Marilyn Monroe as the sex-symbol of the fifties.

When Four-Star was finally committed to the Sheena show, a series of publicity stills flooded the movie and pin-up magazines of the day. Miss Ekberg was constantly photographed in a leopard skin bikini as a sort of lead in to her upcoming role.

Suddenly, the bottom dropped out of the proposed project! Almost everything that could go wrong... did!

Miss Ekberg had signed a contract with (the then, Howard Hughes owned) R.K.O. Studios and a spokesman for the studio informed Four-Star that she would not be playing any roles on television.

The proposed Ekberg / Sheena publicity campaign had to be scrapped.



EKBERG...ALMOST SHEENA.

Added to the above, the delay had prolonged the start of the show until Fiction House, itself had gone out of business.

The Comics Code Authority had crackled down on comics with "girlie art" and after a feeble attempt by Fiction House to comply with the stringent rules set by the C.C.A. Fiction House decided to close their doors, and Sheena of the comics passed into oblivion.

But, Four-Star, having bought the rights to the comic character decided to go ahead with the series. They started a search for a replacement for Miss Ekberg. Their task was not an easy one they had to find someone of very attractive proportions to portray the jungle queen. Their choice was a figure and pin-up model named Irish McCulla.

Miss McCulla was visually perfect as the jungle queen, her resemblance to the comic character was amazing. However, Irish's acting ability left a lot to be desired, (if you have ever had the misfortune to see a low-budget horrer flick called "She Demons" you know what I mean.)

In all fairness though Miss McCulla was not alone to blame for the failure of the show.

IRISH... VISUALLY PERFECT

Because of the investment that Four-Star had in the original Ekberg / Sheena show they spent very little on the McCulla / Sheena version. The sets were terrible, the scripting even worse.

I assume that Four-Star having lost a great deal of money in the original proposed series, lost interest in the project.

One can but just speculate on the outcome of Sheena's television show, if everything had gone according to plan.

If Fiction House had continued to publish their popular "Jumbo and Sheena" comics, if Miss Ekberg had decided to portray Sheena and, most important, if Four-Star had put more effort into their stories and production.

If all these "ifs" had been realized, the syndicated Sheena show might very well be still shown on T.V. today.
But, alas... This was not to be...

NEXT...PERFECT CASTING...T.V.'s CATGIRL.

CHFC Comics Awards

FAVORITE HEROINE TYPE

WINNER: BATGIRL type
43.4 per cent of points

Second: WONDER WOMAN type
30.1 per cent of points

Third: SCARLET WITCH type
26.5 per cent of points

See THA #2 for a full explanation of the awards announced here.

BEST HEROINE-COMICS EDITOR

WINNER: DENNY O'NEIL
30.9 per cent of points

Second: JULIUS SCHWARTZ
29.8 per cent of points

Third: ROY THOMAS
22.3 per cent of points

Fourth: ROBERT KANAGHER
11.7 per cent of points

Fifth: LEN WEIN
5.3 per cent of points

Nominations Now Wanted For:

BEST TV ADVENTURE HEROINE

We hereby call for your nominations for the best action-adventure heroine to appear regularly in a television series. You may nominate the heroines of series which are no longer on the network schedules, but we suggest that you concentrate on series which are currently being shown either as new programs or as syndicated rerun series.

We intend that this award be based, as far as possible, on the merits of the character rather than the appeal or talents of the actress who plays the role. (If you'd like, we will later sponsor another award focusing on the latter consideration!) So keep that in mind, at least to the extent that you can separate the character's merits from those of the actress, and list the names of the characters, not the actresses, as your nominations.

Be sure to read the awards rules and procedures stated below.

* * * COSTUME CONTEST * * *

The CHFC is sponsoring a terrific new contest, and only subscribing members are eligible!

Design a new costume for one of your own favorite comics heroines. You can either give her an entirely new and different costume or make the kinds of modifications of her current one which you feel would improve it. You may send us only one entry, in the form of either a sketch or a written description (or both). Be sure to name the heroine for which your costume is designed. The DEADLINE date is July 1, 1975. Don't be late!

We will select the most appealing and distinctly-appropriate costume, and the heroine involved will wear it in a feature THA illustration created by one of our top AHPA artists! The winning CHFC member will also receive the artist's original artwork as a bonus prize! Runner-up entries will also be appropriately acknowledged in THA.

In making your nominations and in casting votes, you may name THREE choices in EACH category, but be sure to indicate clearly which is your first, second, and third choice. These will receive 5 points, 3 points, and one point respectively.

Where final voting is concerned, you may vote only for candidates which have been nominated by the CHFC membership. "Write-in votes" for other (unlisted) candidates will not be counted.

The DEADLINE date for all categories presented in this issue is July 1, 1975. Nominations or votes which we receive after that date, or which name candidates that are not eligible, or which are not legible and clear in intent will be considered invalid and not counted.

OPERATION: DELUGE!

by Bob Rodi

WOW!

It's a sign...an omen...a motivation for all of us.

I'm referring to the interview with Nicola Cuti in the Charlton Bullseye #1, where Nicola Cuti, scripter of E-Man, gave his reasons for making Nova Kane into a super-heroine. One of the reasons was that "...the public has been crying for a super-heroine..."

Nick Cuti has proven that we ARE indeed heard, that we DO in fact have power, and we CAN eventually get our way. So, in the name of the CHFC, I've organized "Operation: Deluge" in order to concentrate our aim and strengthen our effect. What it all means is simply "WRITE!" But, if we're all writing about the same thing, we're bound to be noticed sooner.

As for our first "assignment"...how about the Lady Sif? For years, she's been Asgard's most gracious goddess (and the one with the best sword-arm). It seems, however, that Sif has donated her "life-force" (?) so that Thor's old girl friend, Jane Foster, may live. I don't know about you, but this makes me a bit ill. Sif was a tremendous character. She proved Thor could be a better strip if the Thunder God had a lady fighting beside him, rather than a lady to fight FOR. Jane has only been back for one issue, and already she's been kidnapped. COME ON! Gerry Conway is leaving Marvel so whoever takes over Thor (Thomas, I've heard) should be absolutely swamped with Sif-requests. Sif, after all, isn't dead. Odin only knows WHAT she is!

Next: the Black Orchid's days in Phantom Stranger are dwindling, and since I haven't heard of any further plans for her, I can assume she's being dropped (Deadman will replace her in PS). Ladies and gentlemen, this is definitely wrong. The Orchid is sensational, a mystery, an excitement.

Though her stories all follow one formula (Orchid disguises herself, defeats criminals, and leaves everybody wondering who the hell she is), it's a successful formula, and certainly has me interested. There's still time to save her. Write in and comment on all her remaining appearances in PS, and demand more.

Speaking as we were of Nova Kane...E-Man has, according to the Comic Reader, been cancelled, with #10 the last issue. Not only was E-Man the best comic to debut in this or any other year, but Nova is clearly the best heroine around. Her frank, direct manner, her sexiness, her earthy charm...how could you NOT love her? E-Man #9, featuring Nova in BEAUTIFUL action, is on sale now. Buy it and WRITE! Losing Nova is like losing the cornerstone of a building. Here's a suggestion: It might be wise, rather than suggesting the the E-Man comic be kept going, to suggest that the strip be continued as a back-up in another Charlton comic (Space 1999 and Doomsday + 1 seem like ideal books for this purpose).

RODI '75

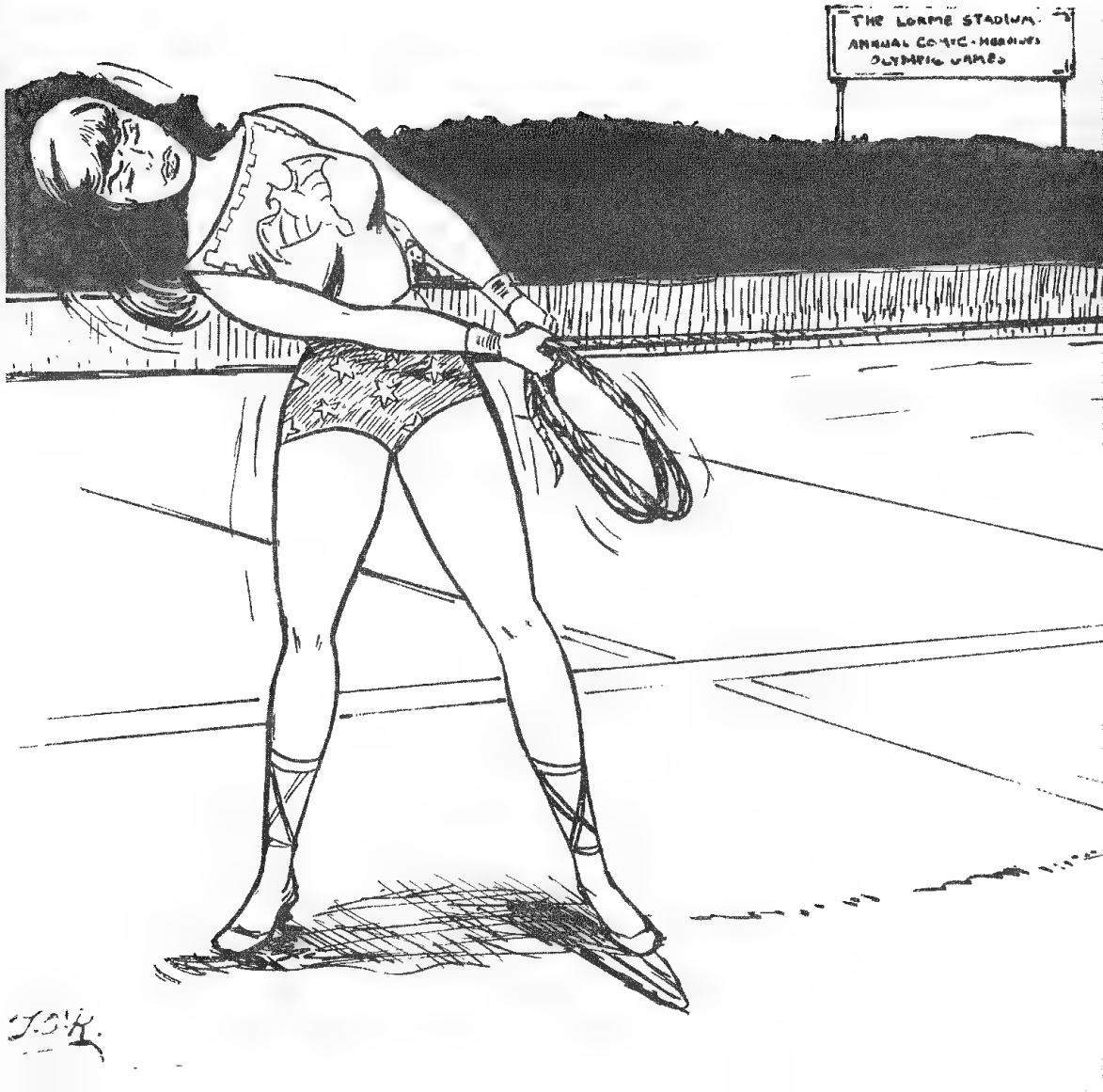
Rima is gone. That's old news by now. But, for an acclaimed strip like Rima, a home should be found. I notice that back-up of Korak is being taken by reprints. There may be some understanding with the Burroughs estate that only Burroughs characters will appear in Tarzan and Korak books, so that Rima can't appear there, but we certainly won't know unless we ask.

Devilina has been cancelled. I had a mild interest in Dev herself, but her b&w comic stunk; #1 was okay. But #2! Dev isn't worth the postage needed to write in, but it is very sad that Atlas now has NO heroines (the astronauts in Planet of Vampires haven't proven themselves heroines yet). A heroine would improve Atlas' line (ANYTHING would improve Atlas' line!) so I'd suggest that we all write in on this subject.

That's it for this column. I will be back, and if we've all done our jobs, soon I'll have nothing to write about. If you should ever doubt the sense of what we're doing, then, like the Alamo, "Remember the words of Nicola Cuti!"

Hola!

Bob Rodi/34 Chatham Lane
Oak Brook, IL/60521


THE LORME STADIUM
ANNUAL COMIC-HEROINES
OLYMPIC GAMES

Dear Sir,

I enjoy very much reading about this specialized area of comic fandom, particularly the nostalgia items.

Enclosed is my check for $5 for my club-dues account. I have also submitted my bid sheet for original THA artwork.

Samuel Chang
Honolulu, Hawaii

Our nostalgia articles and illos have been popular with many readers. We'll continue to feature adventure heroines of the past as well as the present. -A.T.

Dear Al,

Got THA #4 not long ago. Excellent. Mercy's "Fantastic Femmes" was as good as all of her "Spotlight" pieces are. As an admirer of the TV Avengers, I also loved Kirk Hastings' article, even though little was new to me. As for the Club News, *could* you give us all a guide to Carol's cover? I *still* don't recognize everybody!

A note on Dwayne Best's "Marginal Mutterings": Batgirl and Robin will be sharing a new 50¢ DC title, THE BATMAN FAMILY, rather than appearing in FIS.

Again, let me congratulate you on THA - not only its quality, but (what's far rarer) its dependability. Very few 'zines - not even semi-professional jobs like AMAZING WORLD OF DC and STAR REACH - are not prone to unexpected delays, and I just wonder, how do you do it?

BATMANIA #21 is now out - with reduced pages and a wrap-around format. I've had to go up to $1.00, something I hate to do in this era of inflation, but as you yourself observed [in THA #4], special-interest fanzines must often bear high price tags.

Rich Morrissey
Framingham, Mass.

I've been pleased to learn from the response to Kirk's article that many CHFC members are very avid *fans of* The Avengers *TV series, Rich. I hope all of you enjoy Kirk's Part Two.*

I'm glad to hear about DC's plans for THE SUPERMAN FAMILY. *(That's how Rich earns these* BATMANIA *plugs: he gives us the inside dope on Batgirl's career....Just kidding, Rich. You know we're always happy to hear from you.)*

You've made a good move in going to the reduced, wrap-around printing format. Our readers have liked THA in that format, and I'm sure it will prove popular with your Batman fans also.

As for how we manage to publish THA on a dependable bimonthly schedule (even while planning for the addition of THE ADVENTURESS and a letterzine to our AHPA output), all I can say is... Department Editors, stand up and take a well-deserved bow....Then sit down and get back to work: our subscribers are counting on us to meet those deadlines!

In truth, many fans have been surprised by the dependable productivity of the AHPA staff. Believe me, this would not be possible without a great deal of communication and activity which is constantly going on behind the scenes. -A.T.

Dear Mr. Tanner,

I think you should go on having votes for various awards and sending the results to the publishers to let them know what they are doing right... and wrong. If you have votes on "booby prizes," you might alert the publishers and editors to what they might be doing wrong (for example, Worst Costume Award).

Keep up the good work. THE HEROINE ADDICT is an interesting information publication. Continue the habit of using wrap-around covers. They are distinctive and beautiful, especially the cover of #4.

When is THE ADVENTURESS coming out? I am anxiously awaiting its arrival.

Leila Monaghan
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Yes, Leila, we'll continue to display wrap-around covers; our readers have been unanimous in their praise of this THA feature. As for TA, it's going to take a while to get its production scheduled on a regular basis; but have faith: it can be done. -A.T.

Dear Gentlepeople,

I am impressed! And I haven't even seen one issue of any of your publications yet. I am really spaced out by the greatness of the artwork on your brochure (T.O'R. does exceptional copies!) and by the magnitude of heroines on the sample pages from THA #4. I haven't seen some of those women in years! The compulsion to ask: who is that directly below Agatha Harkness? and that beautiful black sword-wielder on the fold? is absolutely overwhelming. What an utter delight to pick among them and sort out their figures and faces!

On to business. I am enclosing a money order. Your dues/subscription sounds more sensible than any other idea I've heard of for the problem.

Do you happen to have any back issues of THA? If you do, please hold one of each issue for me. Or, if you have any dissatisfied readers capable fo parting with their copies, I'd take them. (Who is that ferocious warrior in coin-mail by Kirk? I like her.)

T.K. Martin
Lonoke, Arkansas

Back issues? Yes, we still have them available as you now know. But once our supply runs out, they'll be available only from collectors who offer copies for sale...and we'll have no control over the prices they ask! So order from us now - and consider ordering extra copies as a collector's investment.

Kirk's warrior [page 2 of THA #4] is Red Sonja, T.K. Evidentally you are only beginning to collect heroine comics or you would have recognized her. Welcome to the fold... but remember: heroine addiction can be habit-forming! -A.T.

Al,

Enclosed is $6 for dues, and let me say that THE HEROINE ADDICT is just great. I especially enjoyed part one of the Avengers article in #4. I hope you'll continue to cover heroines in all the media (TV, films, comics, etc.)

Clifford Prather
Santa Ana, Calif.

We surely will! -A.T.

Dear Al,

In no way should you have less (awards) categories. I like being able to vote on these things and to find out what other people like. I also liked, in issue #4, the book review. I really enjoyed it and hope it's a permanent feature.

Ellen Campbell
Adelphi, Md.

Dear Albert:

Enclosed is six dollars for the next six issues of THA. While I enjoy the articles, I was hoping that there would be some ads in the issues from people who have heroine-type books for sale. True, these can be found in RB&CC and TBG, but it seems that THA would be the perfect vehicle for ads strictly for heroine-related books and/or stories. Hope to see this in the future. Surely looking forward to THA #4. Keep up the good work.

Aubrey Talley
Richmond, Virginia

As you know by now, your CHFC dues will be bringing you more than just THA issues, but we're glad you do enjoy these.

You'll find some fan ads in this issue, and many more, we hope, in future ones. By the way, there are indications that we can expect increased advertising to be placed in THA, and if so, we will be publishing even-longer issues with no increase in price! -A.T.

Dear Albert,

Thank you for your letter and forget about my subscription being expired. I would not want to miss an issue. I have enclosed $4.00 for my subscription. Thank you.

Victor Cotic, Jr.
Milwaukee, Wisc.

Thank you, Victor. By the way, everybody, I publish letters like this one not so much because I think we need testimonials as because our staff does

appreciate seeing their work thus acknowledged. I don't blame them at all for that, and I think you all agree they've earned such recognition. -A.T.

Dear Albert,

I was just going through my old WORLD'S FINEST (#227) when I read your [Scott Gibson's] letter. To get to the point, I want to join The Comics Heroines Fan Club.

I'm for heroines. My favorite is Black Canary. I think Wonder Woman and Black Canary should start a Justice League for women only. Cary Bates could probably invent some heroines to join.

Bill Venne
Hinning, Minn.

This idea would appeal to a lot of us, Bill. Check Bob Rodi's articles on LoCs in THA #3 and in this issue, and then fire a stream of letters to the comics people! -A.T.

Dear Mr. Tanner,

Thanks a lot for creating this great concept. Too long have the females in comics been held down. My wife and I look forward to your publications, and may you have great success in this great project.

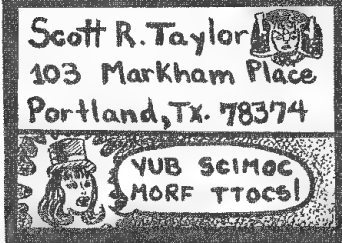
Is there by any chance a poster of The Marvel Comics Group's Valkyrie available?

Larry Smith
Jacksonville, Florida

As you've perhaps noticed, Larry, Marvel has almost totally ingored all the fems in its posters and promotional artwork. In doing so, the Marvel policy-makers are also ignoring a lot of potential fan interest.

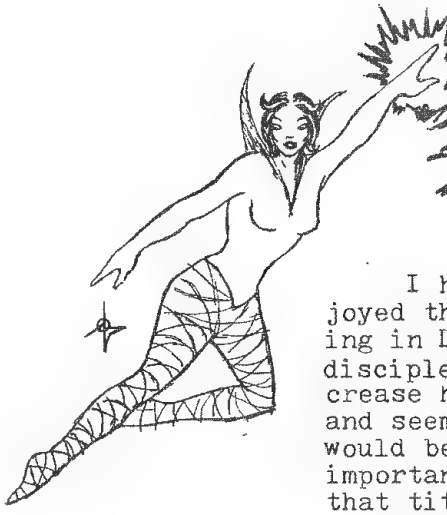
The AHPA is well aware of this interest, and you can look for Valkyrie to be featured in some of our up-coming posters. I have a feeling you'll love 'em all! -A.T.

Scott R. Taylor
103 Markham Place
Portland, Tx. 78374



FOR SALE: TEEN TITANS #24, 35, 41, 38...25¢ each...THE DEMON #1...$1.50; 2, 3...75¢ each...SUPERMAN #179, 227(G)...50¢ each; 223, 229, 230, 240, 248, 250 50¢ each...ADVENTURE #323(LSH), #403 (LSH Giant), 416 (Supergirl Super-Spec)...75¢ each; 408, 412, 413...25¢ each. FANTASTIC FOUR #52...60¢; 104, 124, & 125...25¢ each...80-PAGE GIANT #2, 12, 13, 14...$1.00 each...JLA #48(G)...60¢...SUPERBOY #156(G), 197(1st LEGION) 50¢ each;#189, 191, 195, 198, 199, 200(Wedding), 201, 204...25¢ each...LOIS LANE #69, 75, 78, 86(G), 88, 94, 95(G), 102, 103, 104(G), 106...50¢ each... LOIS LANE #112, 114, 115, 119, 120, 122, 126...25¢ each...ACTION #360 (Supergirl Giant)...60¢; 391, 392, 402, 403...25¢ each...HOUSE OF SECRETS #92 (1st Swamp Thing)...$1.50...WONDER WOMAN #140...50¢; 197, 212...25¢ each... CONAN THE BARBARIAN #28...50¢...THE AVENGERS #97...25¢... SUPER-SPECTACULAR MAGAZINE #6...75¢...DETECTIVE COMICS #313...60¢...NEW GODS #11...50¢...WORLD'S FINEST COMICS #160, 197(G)...50¢; 182, 191, 198, 203, 204...25¢ each.... JIMMY OLSEN #105, 126, 140(G)...50¢ RIMA #3...25¢...BATMAN #233...50¢ G

Comics in good to mint cond.! Postage is 3¢ per mag, miminum order of 4 books. Willing to trade for Fantastic 4, Avengers, Wonder Woman, Aquaman, Titans, JLA, Brave & Bold, Showcase, Conan, and other DC heroes.



...marginal mutterings...

I hope you have all noticed and enjoyed the larger role Clea has been playing in DR.STRANGE recently. As Strange's disciple, she has been learning to increase her natural sorcerous abilities, and seems to be making progress. It would be nice to see her taking a more important part in DEFENDERS, since in that title she has been limited to minor appearences. A Valkyrie-Clea team-up is an absolute must!

*****

Comic book weddings are always interesting, and we've seen three in the last few months. These three were not only interesting, but also unusual. First, the Scarlet Witch married her love, the android Vision, who had just discovered that he was using the body of the original Human Torch. Then Mantis (a popular character among CHFC members, so I'm told) married a tree, who happened to be an extra-terrestrial life-form. The third union, in JUSTICE LEAGUE #121, joined Alanna and Adam Strange, with the entire JLA in attendance (and cameos by Wonder Woman and Hawkgirl). The unusual thing about this wedding, you see, is that it was begun in HAWKMAN #19, back in 1967. The ceremony was interrupted partway through, and they apparently never got around to finishing it (but eight years?).

*****

A few new heroines have showed up these past months. One of the most exciting is Storm, the newest female mutant in the X-Men. She wields control over the weather, and in her native Africa she was considered a goddess. There are certain similarities between her and Zephyr (discussed here last issue), but Storm is still a welcome addition to the ranks. And just when I was complaining about the death of Lupalina, in CONAN, along comes Tara, a saucy acrobatess who should be around for a few more issues, at least. Lady Cop made her debut in FIRST ISSUE SPECIAL #4, but I wasn't too impressed. Black Orchid or Thorn would have filled the pages better. Moondragon and the Wasp have joined the Avengers! Now, when Wanda returns, one-third of the active membership will be heroines, which is a pretty good proportion.

*****

The Gone-But-Not-Forgotten Dept. -- featuring Wonder Tot this time around. It's rather doubtful that she'll ever return to the pages of WONDER WOMAN, but that shouldn't stop us from considering her a full-fledged heroine, just like her two older sisters. A Wonder Tot story was always fun to read, even if it didn't always make much sense.

*****

Dwayne Best * 6 Nobile La.*Poughkeepsie,NY 12603

INTERVIEW WITH AN AMAZON

by [illegible]

So there I was, trying to think of some way to fulfill my promise and get that interview with an amazon. Not one but two spies assured me that they had the location, but both were in Argentina at the time. I was almost ready to just do something else when a winged munchkin flapped through the window and said "Hi! I'm your fairy godmother." Cynical but desperate, I gave the kid a shot at the job my spy network had bungled. She arranged for a neutral meeting place, a delegate from Paradise Island was elected, and I was off. That flying munchkin was a regular Henrietta Kissinger.

ME: Hey, haven't I seen you somewhere before?

SHE: My, how original you outsiders are!

ME: No, waitaminnit....Uh, Seena, right? You found a wounded pilot off the coast here, nursed him back to health, but were forbidden to return with him to the mainland (See *WW* #168). Crom, wotta ripoff!

SHE: I was disappointed in the Queen's judgement, but I accepted it.

ME: Yeah, but when that happened with her own daughter, she was willing to let one amazon leave to help clean up the outside world. From the looks of things, that one amazon could sure use some help!

SHE: Do you think another amazon would be accepted in your world?

ME: Couldn't hurt. Before we get into something heavy, could you give us some facts about the island itself; size, population, etc.?

INTERVIEWER TESTS THE DEPTH OF THE AMAZON'S WIT...

SHE: The island is more-or-less oval in shape, measuring about six by eight miles. Some ¼ of that is forest, and the rest, originally barren, is now being converted into farmland or living areas. There are exactly 211 amazons currently on the island, and. . . .

ME: 211?! Is that all?

SHE: Yes, it is accurate. A larger number would crowd the island, and a smaller population would leave us open to attack without sufficient defenses. Over 80 of our number were lost in battle with Mars several years ago (See *WW* #198). We are still in the process of replacing them.

ME: That's another thing I wanted to ask you. There are no men on the isle, nor pregnant amazons, yet there never seems to be a shortage of young kids running around under foot. Can you give us an explanation? And none of that stuff about clay statues.

SHE: No, the clay statue which was animated by Aphrodite is our Princess, Diana. The goddess does not do that anymore. Do you have a theory as to our method of reproduction?

ME: Well, yeah, I thought you probably . . . .

SHE: Yes, that is correct. Next question. . . .

ME: Ch. Uh, okay, how about Aphrodite's Law? Are you really happy with it? And what does the law cover, exactly?

SHE: The law says that the amazons stay on the island, and that no men may set foot on dry ground. And there are a few, including myself, who feel that the law should be relaxed, but there is no hope of that.

ME: It seems to me there's a loophole here. Men are allowed on the small islets adjacent to Paradise Island, and the amazons are allowed on them too. Is there a separate law to prevent anything from going on there?

SHE: No, not a law, but strange accidents happen to people who try it.

ME: But how can one crummy goddess keep track of over 200 people?

SHE: The animals are her messengers. She can speak to the birds and bees!

ME: (doing my finest Groucho imitation) But she won't let you, eh? So why don't you do something about it? Tell her what to do with her laws!

SHE: You can't argue with a goddess. If your world has so many problems, why don't you tell your rulers about it?

ME: I see what you mean. That thing about talking to the animals; that must be the reason there was no immediate reaction to the crew of male apes who once landed on Paradise Isle. The other animals couldn't tell that this bunch was intelligent (See WW #170).

SHE: I'm not certain of what you say ("Since no one but WW does." ---Ted), but it does sound possible.

ME: Okay, one final question: How long do amazons live? They aren't immortal, are they?

SHE: No. The average life-span is about three times that of outsiders, due to strength, lack of disease and stress, and an advanced medical technology.

ME: So how old is Wonder Woman?

SHE: She'll be around for a long time to come.

ME: That's good to hear. Thanks for your time.

Thus ends the long-awaited interview with an inhabitant of the secluded Paradise Island. What did you think? Should I interview some more conventional heroines, or possibly even some of our own heroines from The Adventuress? Al Tanner, even? Real-life people who've played TV heroines? I'm all ears, folks, so let me know what you want. The address is still:

Cyborg Headquarters for Unification
of Mechanical People (C.U.M.P.)
977 Mt. Vernon Dr.
Charleston, SC 29412

NEXT TIME: Although I don't want to make any more promises which I may not be able to keep, next is something humorous.

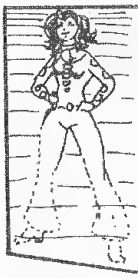
A NEW TALE OF THE LEGION of SUPER-HEROINES

SATURN GIRL

(**IMRA ARDEEN** of **TITAN**, a moon of SATURN) WAS A CHARTER MEMBER OF THE **LEGION**, IN THE ORIGIN GIVEN IN **SUPERBOY GIANT** #147 (MAY 1968). HER FIRST PUBLISHED APPEARANCE - **ADV.** # 247 (APRIL 1958) WITH THE **LEGION'S** DEBUT

PRINCESS PROJECTRA

(of **ORANDO**) WAS ADMITTED IN **ADVENTURE** # 346 (JULY 1966). A PRINCESS of **ORANDO**, SHE IS A MEMBER of THAT PLANET'S ROYAL FAMILY AND LIVES ON **EARTH** AS A **LEGIONNAIRESS**.



PHANTOM GIRL

(**TINYA WAZZO** of **BGZTL** a parallel of **EARTH**) JOINED THE **LEGION** SHORTLY AFTER IT WAS FOUNDED, ALSO IN **SUPERBOY** #147 HER FIRST PUBLISHED APPEARANCE WAS IN **ACTION** #276. (MAY 1961)

SHADOW LASS

(**TASMIA MALOR** of **TALOR VIII**) WAS ADMITTED IN **ADVENTURE** #366 (MARCH 1968) SHE IS THE LATEST "NEW" PERMANENT **LADY LEGIONNAIRE** of THE CURRENT SEVEN WOMEN. SEE PREVIOUS.

SHRINKING VIOLET

(**SALU DIGBY** of **IMSK**) 1ST TRIED OUT FOR THE **LEGION** IN **ACTION** #276. SHE DIDN'T MAKE IT THEN, BUT HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BEFORE **ADV.** # 300 (SEPTEMBER, 1962).

TRIPLICATE GIRL

(**LUORNU DURGO** of **CARGG**) ALSO ADMITTED IN THE **LEGION** ORIGIN, **SUPERBOY** #147. HER FIRST PUB. APPEARANCE WAS IN **ACTION** #276. BECAME **DUO DAMSEL** IN **ADV** #341 (FEB. 66) MARRIED & LEFT THE **LSH** IN **SUPERBOY** #200

LIGHTNING LASS

(**AYLA RANZZ** of **WINATH**) IMPERSONATED HER SUPPOSEDLY-DEAD BROTHER **LIGHTNING LAD**, IN **ADV** #308 (MAY 1963). BUT WAS ACCEPTED BY HER SKILLS BY STORY'S END. BECAME **LIGHT LASS**, IN **ADV** #317 (FEB 1964) WITH THE SCIENTIFIC AID OF.....

SUPERGIRL

(**KARA ZOR-EL** of 20th CENTURY **ARGO CITY**, late of **KRYPTON**) FIRST TRIED OUT FOR THE **LEGION-ACTION** #267 (AUG 1960) JOINED **ACTION** #276, RESIGNED **ADV.** #350, BACK BY #351 AND FINALLY LEFT **LSH** #204. RESERVIST.

DREAM GIRL

(**NURA NAL** of **NALTOR**) WHO JOINED BY A TRICK IN **ADV** #317. SHE RESIGNED, REJOINING AS **MISS TERIOUS** IN **ADV** # 350 (NOV 1966) -- AND ALLOWED TO STAY AS A MEMBER WHEN HER IDENTITY WAS REVEALED IN THE FOLLOWING ISSUE.

INSECT QUEEN

THE **LEGION'S** OTHER LADY RESERVIST IS **LANA LANG** of 20th CENTURY **EARTH**. FIRST APPR. **SUPERBOY** #10 (SEPT-OCT 1950) GOT HER POWER IN **SUPERBOY** #124 (OCT 65) MADE A RESERVIST IN **ADV** #355 (APR '67) AND APPEARED WITH THE **LSH** IN **ADV** #370, **S/LSH** 200 & 205.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE →

the LEGION of S.H.E.S etcetera

QUANTUM QUEEN
THIS FUTURE **LEGIONNAIRE** HAS COMPLETE CONTROL OF LIGHT IN ITS VARIOUS FORMS. A MEMBER OF THE **WANDERERS** WITH ....

PSYCHE
CONTROLLER OF EMOTIONS, SHE AND **QUANTUM QUEEN** APPEARED IN **ADVENTURE** #375 (DEC 1968) & **SUPERBOY AND THE LEGION of SUPERHEROES** #200

The **LEGION of SUPER-HEROES of LALLOR** FROM **ADV** #324, CONTAINED TWO GIRLS

LIFE LASS WHO CAN GIVE TEMPORARY LIFE TO ANY INANIMATE OBJECT.

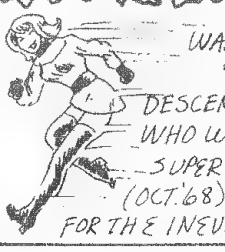
GAS GIRL WHO CAN TURN INTO ANY GAS.

SINCE THAT ISSUE, THEY HAVE ONLY MADE BRIEF APPEARANCES IN **ADV.** #339 (Dec 1965) AND **S/LSH** #200. THEIR REAL NAMES HAVE NEVER BEEN REVEALED.

The WHITE WITCH (**XOLA AQ of NALTOR**) IS **DREAM GIRL'S** SISTER (BUT UNMARRIED - THERE ARE NO FAMILY NAMES ON **NALTOR**). SHE APPEARED IN **ADV.** #350, 351, (TEMPORARILY TRASFORMED BY **EVILLO** INTO THE VILLIANOUS **HAG**) #370, AND (of course) **S/LSH** #20. SHE ALSO WILL SOME DAY JOIN THE LEGION.

NIGHT GIRL (**LYDDA JATH of KATHOON**) WAS A CHARTER MEMBER OF **THE LEGION OF SUBSTITUTE HEROES** WHEN IT WAS FORMED IN **ADV.** #306 (MAR. 1963.) **DREAM GIRL** WAS ALSO A MEMBER FROM **ADV.** #342 UNTIL SHE RE-JOINED THE "REAL" **LEGION** IN #350.

INFECTIOUS LASS TRIED OUT IN **S/LSH** #201; SHE COULD TRANSMIT ANY DISEASE TO ANYONE. SHE WAS RESECTED AS A HEALTH HAZARD.



DAWN ALLEN WAS ONE OF THE "**TORNADO TWINS**" DESCENDANTS OF THE **FLASH**, WHO WERE GIVEN TEMPORARY SUPER-SPEED IN **ADV** #373 (OCT. '68) HER ONLY APPEARANCE BUT FOR THE INEVITABLE **S/LSH** #200.

ONE MORE PAGE FOLLOWS ON THE THIRTIETH CENTURY SUPER-SHE'S OF THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES!

the LEGION of S.H.E.S VILLAINESSES

SPIDER GIRL

REJECTED FROM THE LEGION ADV #320 (MAY '64) AND WITH HER POWER TO EXPAND HER HAIR INTO A TENACIOUS WEB, JOINED THE LEGION of SUPER-VILLAINS, A DV. #372, S/LSH 208 AGAINST THE LEGION

QUEEN AZURA of FEMINAZ

BRAINWASHED THE FEMALE LEGIONNAIRES INTO SEIZING CONTROL OF THE LEGION IN ADV #326 (NOV '64) BUT LATER REPENTED HER ACTION AND RELEASED THEM FROM HER CONTROL.

SATURN QUEEN

of TITAN, A MEMBER OF THE ADULT LEGION of SUPER-VILLAINS TO BATTLE THE LEGION ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, (ADV #355) AND AN APOCRYPHAL BATTLE AGAINST THE TEEN LEGION ADV #331 (APR. 65)

ALL CHARACTERS AND LOGOS COPYRIGHT 1975 NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBS. INC.

GLORITH of BAALDUR

(a planet in ANDROMEDA says HARRY B) THE TIME-TRAPPER'S ACCOMPLICE, ASSIGNED BY HIM TO DESTROY THE LEGION ADV #338 (NOV '65) HE KILLED HER HIMSELF WHEN SHE FAILED IN HER MISSION.

EMERALD EMPRESS

SARYA of VENGAR AN ARCHAEOLOGIST WHO DISCOVERED & CONTROLS THE EMERALD EYE of EKRON. SHE FOUGHT THE LEGION WITH THE FATAL 5 IN ADV #352 (JAN '67) #353, #365, #366, #378, AND SILSH #198.

THORA of TALTAR

AN AMBASSADOR WITH SIMILAR IDEAS TO AZURA, SHE INCREASED THE GIRL LSHers POWERS TO DEFEAT THE GOYS UNTIL SUPERGIRL BROKE HER CONTROL THORA THEN KILLED HERSELF IN ADV. #368 (MAY 1968)

MUCHO THANKS TO RICHARD H. MORRISSEY-SCRIPT AND NEAL POZNER-TRIVIA, ETC.

MYSTELOR

ONE of 5 ASSASINS HIRED BY TAURUS, A CRIMINAL GANG LED BY A DISHONEST SCIENCE POLICEMAN, SHE POSSESSED IMMENSE MENTAL POWERS. ADVENTURE #374 (NOVEMBER, 1968)

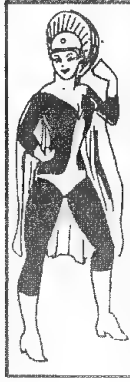
BEAUTY BLAZE

MEMBER of the ADULT LEGION of SUPER VILLIANS IN ADV #355 (APRIL 1967) POSSIBLY A MALEVOLENT DESCENDANT of VOLCANA ASH, MARVEL'S HOT NEW CHARACTER

ALRRK

PARTNER TO SKYZZNX, "WOULD-BE CONQUERERS" FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSE IN ADV #380, (MAY 1969) SUICIDED UPON THEIR FAILURE, LEAVING A MYSTIFIED LEGION IN THEIR WAKE

ANOTHER MISINFORMED MERELY MINISCULE MONSTER MUTTERINGS FROM MERCY



ZORLA

THE GIRL FRIEND OF A CORRUPT BUSINESSMAN, MR. COSVARR. SHE DESTROYED HIM, HIS FACTORY, AND HERSELF WHEN HE FELL FOR CARINA WALTER, IMPERSONATED BY LIGHT LASS. ACTION #382.

ULI AIGOR

IMPERSONATED SHADY, ACTION #379 (AUG '69), AND IN ACTION #386 (MAR. 1970), TRIED TO DESTROY THE LEGION WITH A BELT THAT TURNED THEIR POWERS AGAINST THEM NIGHT GIRL WAS ALSO FEATURED.

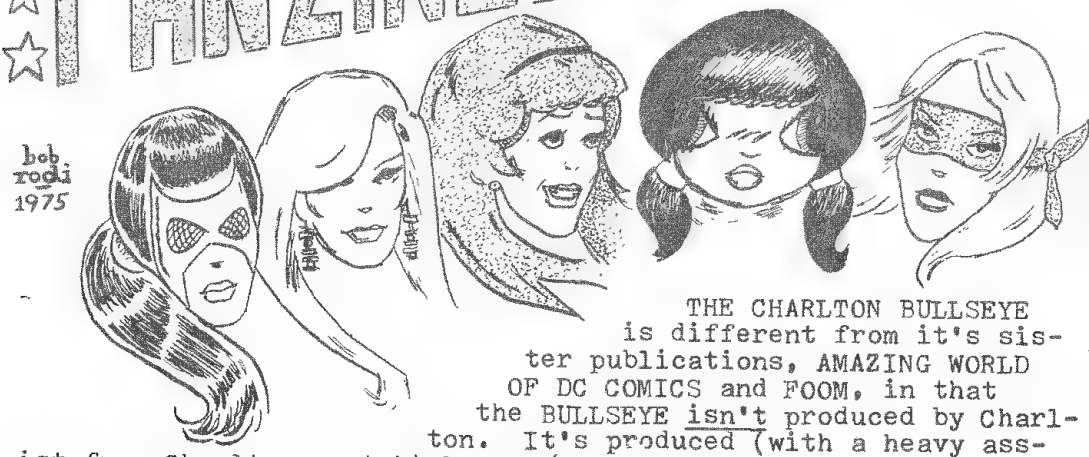
BY POPULAR DEMAND!

When we published that special wrap-around cover on THA #4, we anticipated that Carol Strickland's fabulous collage would draw rave reactions from our readers, and it certainly did. The superlatives have really been flying as readers continue to outdo themselves in expressing their delight. Perhaps "awe" would be a better word.

We had originally considered publishing in THA #4 a listing of all of the ninety heroines which Strick had illustrated in the collage, but finally we decided against it on the basis of space considerations. Since then, so many of you have insisted on having such a listing, however, that we realize that decision was a mistake. So here, by popular demand, is Strick's own complete list of the ninety comics heroines with which she beautifully and skillfully adorned the covers of THA #4!

Alura (Supergirl's mother)
Batgirl
Bat-Girl
Batwoman
Beautiful Dreamer (Forever People)
Bergstrom, Terri (co-starred w/Robin)
Black Angel
Black Canary
Black Orchid
Black Widow
Blonde Phantom
Brenda (Planet of Vampires)
Bulletgirl
Candy, Etta (WW's friend)
Cat, The
Clea (Dr. Strange's student)
Crystal (Inhumans)
Cynthia (Three Witches)
Dawn, Crimson (Secret Six)
de Neuve, Lili (Secret Six)
Dollgirl
Dream Girl
Dumb Bunny (Inferior Five)
Duo Damsel
Elasti Girl (Doom Patrol)
Enchantress, The
Equila, Judy (co-starred w/Supergirl)
Galland, Elissa (Planet of Vampires)
Gas Girl (Heroes of Lallor)
Harkness, Agatha (Avengers)
Hawkgirl I
Hawkgirl II
Hippolyte (WW's mother)
Ilda (co-starred w/Star Hawkins)
Insect Queen (Legion Reserve)
Invisible Girl (Sue Richards)
Jan of the Jungle
Kale, Jennifer
Lane, Lois
Lara (Superman's mother)
Life Lass (Heroes of Lallor)
Light Lass
Lilith (DC version; Teen Titans)
Lilith (Marvel version)
Mantis
Marvel Girl
Mary Marvel
Medusa
Mera
Mildred (Three Witches)
Miss America
Moon Dragon
Mordred (Three Witches)
nameless (Metal Men)
Namora
Namorita
Night Girl
Nubia (WW's twin)
Phantom Girl
Phantom Lady (Freedom Fighters)
Prince, Diana
Princess Projectra
Psyche (Wanderers)
Quantom Queen (Wanderers)
Red Sonja
St. Claire, Christine
Satana
Saturn Girl
Scarlet Witch
Shadow Lass
Shanna The She-Devil
Sheena
Shrinking Violet
Sif
Silver Scorpion
Supergirl
Thorn
Thundra
Tina (Platinum of the Metal Men)
Tula (a.k.a. Aquagirl)
Valkyrie
Vampirella
Walton, Judy (Sea Devils)
Warren, Kathy (co-starred w/Superboy)
Wasp, The
White Witch (Dream Girl's sister)
Wonder Girl (Teen Titans; WW's sister)
Wonder Tot (WW's youngest sister)
Wonder Woman
Zatanna

FANZINES



BULLSEYE BEAUTIES, l-r: Nightshade, Countess R.H. Von Bludd, Nova, Moonchild, and Liberty Belle.

THE CHARLTON BULLSEYE is different from it's sister publications, AMAZING WORLD OF DC COMICS and FOOM, in that the BULLSEYE isn't produced by Charlton. It's produced (with a heavy assist from Charlton, natch) by CPL/Gang Publications, which may be the reason that the BULLSEYE is, in many ways, better than AMAZING WORLD or FOOM...especially with regards to heroines.

The first issue was chock-full of delicious tidbits for both Charlton lovers and heroine addicts. Charlton is one of the better comics companies around...23 pages of new material in each issue, and a cover PAINTING, for the same prive as DC or Marvel, and I'm glad to see them get their own fanzine.

One of the highlights of the issue was the preview of the Countess R.H. Von Bludd, the sexy vampiress who will be hosting Charlton's new comic, SCARY TALES. My enthusiasm for the garden-variety mystery anthology book has pretty well petered out, but Joe Staton's studies of the Countess (one full page & a back-page pin-up) will insure SCARY TALES of at least my two bits.

There's also a reproduction of the full-page illo of Ms. Nova Kane which exploded in color in E-MAN #8. Nova is currently enjoying her last few issues as E-Man's co-star...and, when E-MAN finally is cancelled, if Charlton has no other plans for Alec or Nova, you can bet that the BULLSEYE will be the only place you'll see her.

The most exciting feature of the BULLSEYE is it's two comic sections. Issue #1 featured Jeff Jones' Balor the Barbarian and...are you ready?...Captain Atom and Nightshade! With art by Ditko and Byrne! If I haven't sold you on the BULLSEYE by now, you're un-sellable. This fanzine brings back the Darling of Darkness whom Scott Gibson wrote so lovingly about last issue. The tale is a two-parter, and will be continued in the BULLSEYE's second issue.

As for future comic sections...I understand that Liberty Belle, the star-spangled heroine from E-MAN #5, will be appearing in a new adventure soon. Obviously, the BULLSEYE isn't about to forget about heroines after this first issue.

The other item which may be of interest to heroine fans is the interview with Nicola Cuti, scripter of E-MAN and nominee for the ACBA Best Humor Writer Award. In an extremely interesting interview, Cuti revealed his reasons for re-making Nova Kane into a super-heroine*, and also some behind-the-scenes looks at his artist-writer swan song, Moonchild. Moonchild is NOT a Charlton heroine. She was produced by Windy City Publications, and, though I've never read her, I've seen alot about her around fandom. Any information on her, anyone?

THE CHARLTON BULLSEYE is black & white, 8" x 11", off-set, with a wrap-around cover, and well worth your money. Subscriptions are $5.50 for six issues from CPL/Gang Publications, 4010 Mallway Dr. Apt. A, Indianapolis, Ind. 46236. Get it!

BLACK & WHITE NEWS AND REVIEWS by Bob Rodi

After my very optimistic article in THA #3, it seems as though heroines in black & white comics are heading downhill. Marvel Comics is cancelling most of it's b&w mystery titles in favor of adventure titles, which is a good move in itself, but, at last count, Tigra, Satana, Shanna, and Lilith were left homeless. Tigra and Satana were all set to move into GIANT-SIZE CHILLERS and GIANT-SIZE DRACULA, but THOSE mags were cancelled, too. All we can do is wait and see what happens. Devilina, Atlas' black and white comic, has been shelved. The general concensus here seems to be "No loss."

On the lighter side, THE SPIRIT #8 contained the graveyard gumshoe's most famous female foes, including the delightful, sensuous P'Gell in a full-color "Assignment Paris." Eisner's women are fantasies come true, and his bad ladies are better yet.

A super-length VAMPIRELLA novel is in the works. Pantha, the most offensive heroine in the entire world, is taking up space in VAMPI now, but fret not...she is to be pre-empted by the delectable Fleur in VAMPI #45, if present plans are kept. Fleur is the most delightful witch you'll ever meet...the less said about Pantha, the better (yuk!)

Red Sonja will be starring in KULL AND THE BARBARIANS as well as her color comic. Not bad, hmh?

Other than that, heroines in b&w's are at their nadir. Seems a shame, the way they were moving four months ago; oh, well, that's all the news...the good and the bad of it, the black and the white of it.

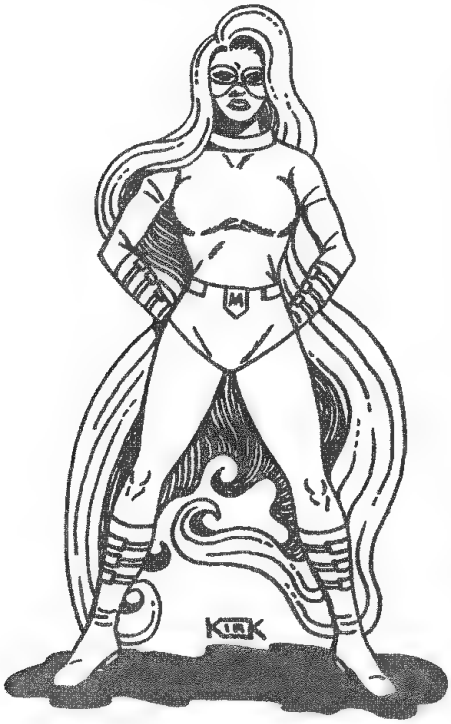
(* See "Operation: Deluge" elsewhere in this issue)

FANTASTIC FEMMES

by Jeff Thompson

Can you believe that two people, one in Norristown, Pennsylvania, and one in Nashville, Tennessee, simultaneously came up with the identical title and article topic? Well, it happened! I know you enjoyed the "Fantastic Femmes" picto-article by Mercy Van Vlack last issue. Since I think that that is a great title and the subject matter unlimited, I am going to continue as planned. FANTASTIC FOUR, "The World's Greatest Comic Magazine," certainly deserves that title which appears on its covers and its heroines deserve much exposure in THE HEROINE ADDICT.

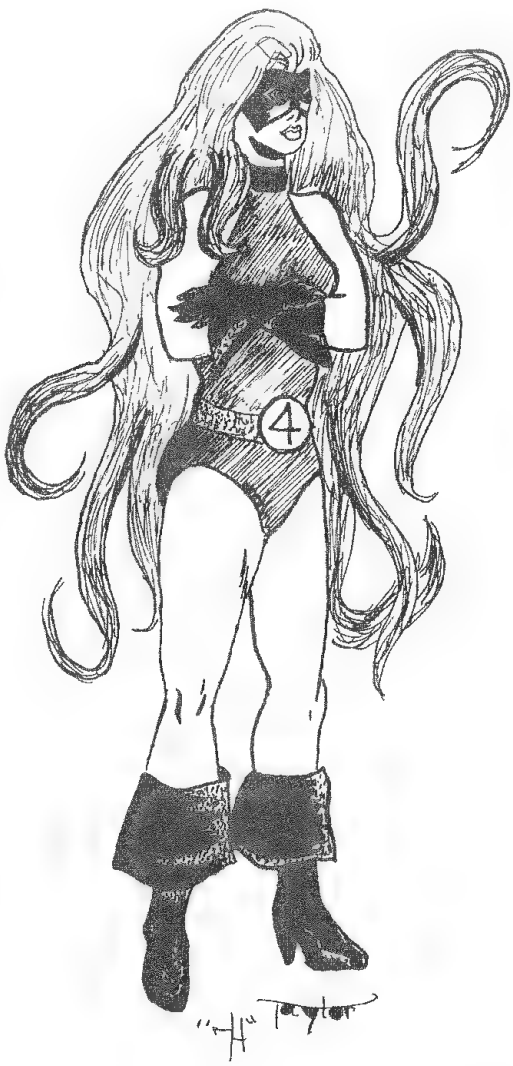
The uncanny Inhuman with the living, moving hair, Medusa, had deviated between good and evil for several years before finally joining the Fantastic Four after the Invisible Girl had departed, in FANTASTIC FOUR #132 (March, 1973). Mr. Fantastic, the Human Torch, and the Thing had saved the Great Refuge (the Inhumans' Himalayan home) from the threat of Omega, and Black Bolt, the Inhumans' ruler awarded the outworlders with an Electro-Weave, a device which would repair and/or alter their costumes. The Inhuman Gorgon aimed the machine's ray at Medusa and transformed her full-length, purple outfit into a similar yet briefer, version of the Invisible Girl's FF uniform. Medusa explained to Reed Richards that "...Black Bolt wishes me to visit the outer world for a time as his special emissary to learn the best time and way to reveal our existence. And what better way to visit your world...than...by replacing your estranged wife in the Fantastic Four, until such time as she returns!"



Medusa's official FF membership spanned twenty-eight issues of FANTASTIC FOUR and the first five issues of GIANT-SIZE FANTASTIC FOUR, until she resigned in FANTASTIC FOUR #159 (June, 1975), a recent issue. During Medusa's tenure on the team, she helped her three male companions battle Dragon Man, Miracle Man, Annihilus, Doctor Doom, the Hulk, Sub-Mariner, the Frightful Four, Ultron-7, Mahkizmo, Xemu, and many others. Despite the fact that we now have the Invisible Girl back, the red-tressed Inhuman's presence in FANTASTIC FOUR will be missed.

An attractive heroine who has become a supporting character in MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE, the Thing's team-up magazine, is Namorita, the youthful cousin of Prince Namor, the savage Sub-Mariner. Nita, as she is often called, first appeared in MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE magazine in the second issue (March, 1974), when her cousin joined forces with the Thing to subdue Wundarr, the man-child from the stars, who was on a rampage in New York. Wundarr was introduced in the Man-

Thing story from FEAR #17 (July, 1974) and offer to take Wundarr and tutor him. Since Wundarr's rampage two issues before a reluctant Ben Grimm had been caring for him. Ben told Nita, "Take good care of the kid, y'hear? Not that I'll miss 'im, but..."



With Namorita was a young woman named Ann Christopher, a brunette who was Nita's college roommate. This was Ann's initial appearance, but she returned with Namorita and Wundarr in MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #8 (March, 1975). In this issue, Nita, Ann (now a blonde), and Wundarr gather with the FF at their Baxter Building headquarters for a Christmas celebration.

The latest appearances of Namor's cousin and her roommate at this writing were in the ninth issue of TWO-IN-ONE (May, 1975). In this issue Wundarr takes a hand in the action and aids Ben in defeating the Puppet Master and Radion. Nita's largest participation in a TWO-IN-ONE story so far was in issue #2 (March, 1974), in which she was clad in a very revealing bikini.

Another seemingly-powerless FFemale not to be overlooked is Alicia Masters, the Thing's sightless girlfriend. Despite her blindness, Alicia has played vital roles in several well-known FF tales, including FANTASTIC FOUR #48-50 and 65-67. In the former she befriended the Silver Surfer, who was then the herald of Galactus. In the latter adventure, Alicia, who is a talented sculptress, was transported to the mysterious Citadel of Science to sculpt a likeness of a strange, synthetic human being known only as Him. The sight of Him blinded normal eyes, so Ms. Masters was the only person able to "see" Him and show through a statue what He looked like. (This storyline later was declared to be the origin of Adam Warlock.)

Alicia Masters is still another supporting character in MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE. She appeared in the eighth issue (March, 1975).

If anyone ever came between Ben Grimm and Alicia Masters, perhaps she could get together with lawyer Matt Murdock (Daredevil). After all, they have a big thing in common: they are both blind! On second thought, after observing this improbable couple (Alicia and the Thing) together, I am led to believe that it would take a lot of work to separate them.

Two vastly different, yet similar, women who have graced the pages of FANTASTIC FOUR for several years are Agatha Harkness and Crystal. The former is an elderly witch who used to inhabit an old mansion on Whisper Hill. Agatha premiered in a 1970 issue of FANTASTIC FOUR, right after Reed and Sue's baby boy, Franklin Benjamin Richards, had been born. Reed and Sue sought an efficient governess for little Franklin in a secluded place, to protect him from his parents' legions of enemies. Miss Harkness got the job on the same night her "secluded" home was invaded by the Frightful Four! Young Franklin lived through the battle that ensued and Agatha Harkness' house returned to "normal." Agatha has a black cat named Ebony who possesses weird powers.

Miss Harkness has come to the aid of the FF several times, usually displaying her macabre, necromantic abilities in the process. She completed her training of the Scarlet Witch just in time for the female Avenger and her new husband, the Vision, to depart on a honeymoon. Also, in FANTASTIC FOUR #159 (June, 1975), Sue Richards mentions the fact that she needs "a part-time babysitter for little Franklin." Will it be Agatha Harkness again - or a new character?

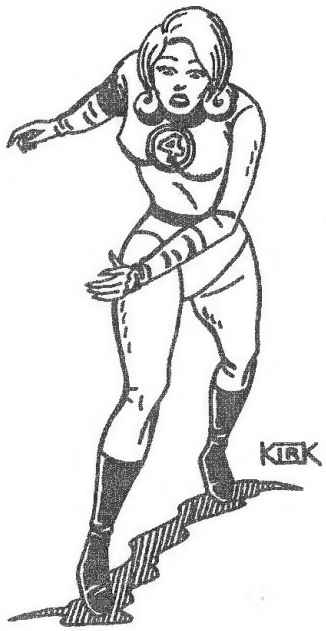
Despite the fact that Johnny Storm's former sweetheart, Crystal (Medusa's Inhuman sister), has been married to the mutant Quicksilver since FANTASTIC FOUR #150 (September, 1974), Johnny still broods over her and considers her "his girl," as Quicksilver thought to himself, in FANTASTIC FOUR #159. During the time Jack Kirby expertly illustrated the fabulous foursome's adventures, Crystal was a regular character in the magazine, although not an actual FF member. In virtually every issue from the time she made her debut to #118 she and Johnny were seen speeding around in cars or in the air, or just plain having a marvelous time. Then it all was shattered for Johnny when Crystal told him of her love for Quicksilver in #131 (February, 1973).

Perhaps Crystal would not have been drawn to Quicksilver if she had not had to leave Johnny and return to the Great Refuge, where Quicksilver was staying after his battle with the Sentinels in THE AVENGERS #104 (October, 1972). Crystal did this because she could not stand the outer world's air pollution. This brings up a seemingly unanswered question: since Crystal's Inhuman power was control of the elements, why didn't she just make it rain and clear out the pollution temporarily?

A woman from the past recently has returned and just might be able to make Johnny forget about Mrs. Crystal Quicksilver. The woman is the blue-skinned Valeria from the Fifth Dimension. She first appeared in STRANGE TALES #103, when the Human Torch went into her dimension to battle Xemu (then spelled Zemu). Even then, one could sense physical attraction between Johnny and Valeria. Xemu returned in FANTASTIC FOUR #159 (a lot happened in that issue, didn't it?), and Valeria was there, too. Johnny kissed her in this issue, and the lettercol writer hinted that a romance MAY blossom

between the blue-clad young man and the blue-skinned woman.

I have been mentioning Susan Storm Richards throughout this article and have not discussed her yet. The truth is, she is not one of my favorite comics heroines. She is one of my favorite comics women, however. What I mean by that is I like her better when she is exhibiting moods and emotions characteristic of real human beings rather than when she is turning invisible or enveloping friends and foes in force fields. Sue's appearances that I have enjoyed most are the ones in FANTASTIC FOUR #103 (January, 1973), when she takes Franklin and leaves her husband Reed and explains why; #135 (June, 1973) when Sue has a brief reunion with Reed and the FF; #141 (December, 1973), when she witnesses Reed shutting down the explosive mind of their son; #149 (August, 1974), when Sue reconciles with Reed and forgives him; and in FANTASTIC FOUR #159 (June, 1975), the issue which marks Sue Richards' official return to the team. I've always considered the Invisible Girl to be rather inept. I think that Sue Richards has a very complex personality which makes for engrossing reading. Could it be that the FFemales are what make that magazine "The World's Greatest Comic Magzzine?"



Next issue, in "Fantastic Femmes (Part Two)," an in-depth look at the newest lady from FANTASTIC FOUR, Thundra.

WANTED

Aquaman		Hawk and Dove	
numbers	will pay	numbers	will pay
1	$3.50	1-6	@ $ .50
2-5	@ $1.50		
6-10	@ $ .75	Supergirl	
11-25	@ $ .50	10	$ .35
26-29,32,			
40-47,49,53-54,	@ $ .35	Cat	
50-52	@ $ .75	2,3	@ $ .50
Showcase		E-Man	
59,75	@ $2.00	2-4	@ $ .50

All comics should be in good to mint condition. Please send your lists to:

Carol A. Strickland
5316 Blue Water Place
Fayetteville, NC 28301

Vault of Villainesses

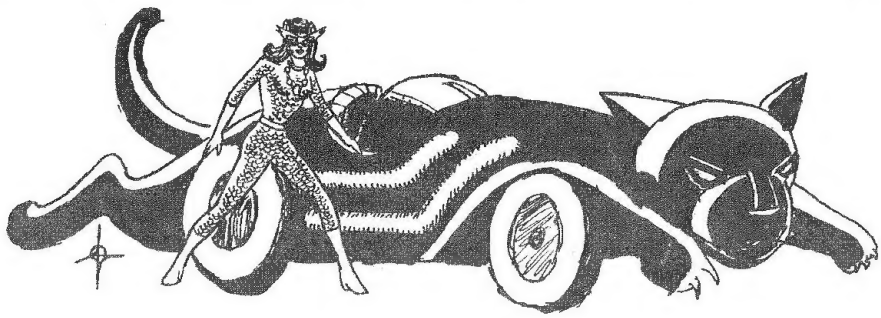
by Dwayne Best

This special edition of "Vault of Villainesses features that Countess of Crime, the Catwoman -- an evildoer so popular among the CHFC voters that she won in the "Best Comics Villainess" cat-egory on the first ballot, rendering final voting unnecessary. I had predicted that she would win, even though she is not my personal favorite and I didn't vote for her, but I hadn't imagined such overwhelming popularity. Nearly everyone who has written to me about this column has asked for the Catwoman, so here she is, at last.

During the forties and fifties, the Catwoman was one of Batman's most-met enemies. Only the Joker and the Penguin made more appearances. She first appeared in BATMAN #1 as a clever, non-costumed jewel thief, known in underworld circles as the Cat. During most of this first story she was in disguise; in fact, Batman and Robin were unaware that she was the culprit until the last few pages. Robin, with his usual 1940s naivete, never suspected that the Cat could be a female. At this early stage in his career, he was probably unaware of the fact that women were capable of villainy.

This story was also the first to introduce the Batman-Catwoman love interest. As the Caped Crusaders were taking the captive Cat to the police, Batman deliberately allowed her to escape. She showed up briefly in the next issue, then in BATMAN #3 she donned a costume and became the Catwoman, thus beginning a thirty-five year long career of matching wits with Batman, Robin, and other DC stars.

Her first costume, a knee-length skirt, billowing cape, and cat's head mask lasted for a short time (it was later colored in dark shades) and was then traded for her more familiar Golden Age garb, shown above. This costume lasted for many years, until in LOIS LANE #70 the skirt became tight-fitting pants. But the year was 1966, and Julie Newmar's portrayal of the Catwoman on the BATMAN TV show prompted another change. This costume, which was green and resembled the TV Catwoman's costume, lasted for two issues (see below). It was then exchanged for her most recent costume in BATMAN #210. And this month, in BATMAN #266, she regains her skirted '40s and '50s one.



Her methods of operation and equipment have remained varied over the years. From her very first appearance she showed her skill at disguise, which she used on other occasions to avoid capture. She was also proficient at hypnotism, and has used it to escape from prison and confuse her foes, with the aid of a cat's-eye gem. During the the 1940s the Princess of Plunder first used her Kitty-Car. An obvious counterpart of the Batmobile, this vehicle could leap over obstacles in its path. The Kitty-Car underwent minor remodeling jobs over the years, until in BATMAN #210 she sold it to a used car salesman, who sold it to two petty crooks who planned to use it until they were captured by Batman. Catwoman then used a different car -- called a Catillac. On at least one occasion she had a Catplane, which had functioning front claws that were used in a dogfight (you should excuse the expression) with the Batplane. She also once had a Catarang, a curved weapon with sharp claws. But her most famous weapon is the cat o'-nine-tails, which she has kept to this day. She didn't always use this whip-weapon, though, in fact, Batman once used one to defeat her.

Her motivations remain mysterious. She began as a mere jewel thief, and she is still apparently interested in gems. Later, she began to use cats as a trademark, like Two-Face's twos. Most of her crimes were connected with "cats"in one way or another, and a Catwoman story was always filled with words like "Catoptrics", catafalque", "caterpillar", and often "cat-astrophe". Someone decided that she should have the legendary "nine lives", so she has been considered dead at times, but always turns up again later. I'd imagine they've lost count by now. She usually works alone, but she has had gangs of hench-men (and henchwomen) to help her. Heroines she has met include Batgirl, Wonder Woman, Lois Lane, and Black Canary. And yet, we often see a different side of her. She is not totally evil; we know she cares for Batman. She has saved his life at times, and for a while she fought crime at his side. She has a sense of honor; she once repaid a debt by saving Diana Prince's life. She loves animals, especially cats, and we know that she would risk much for their sake. We cannot merely label her a villain-ess. From her first appearance as a clever jewel thief, she has developed into perhaps the most complex and interesting of Batman's foes. She is due to make two appear-ances this month; in BATMAN #266 and in the $1.00 BATMAN book (a reprint from BATMAN #45).

P.S. There was a time, from about 1954 to 1966 when Selina Kyle was absent from comics, part-ly due to editorial decree. During that time there was a Cat-Man, in DETECTIVE #s 311,318, and 324, who really did have nine lives. In #318, Batwoman pretended to fall in love with him and became the Cat-Woman to help defeat him (see illo). She had several cat-weapons in her Kit-Bag, which she used to help. In #324 she donned the costume again to help send the Cat-Man back to jail. He had used up all of his lives, and hasn't been heard from since. Batwoman kept the costume as a trophy.